

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, RO
SUBJECT: FINALIZATION OF OBR, "TRADING AND INVESTING IN
ROMANIA"

REF: USDOC WASHDC 10186

1. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL EMBASSY COMMENTS CONCERNING
DRAFT OBR. WE REGRET DELAY IN TRANSMITTING THEM.

2. IN SECTION ON FIVE-YEAR PLAN (FYP), POINT SHOULD BE
MADE THAT ONLY BROAD GUIDELINES ARE MADE PUBLIC. DETAILS
OF FYP ARE SECRET AND VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND OUT, E.G.,
IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IN WHAT PLAN YEAR A PARTICULAR
PROJECT WILL BE CONTRACTED FOR OR WHEN A PARTICULAR PLANT IS
SCHEDULED TO BE PUT INTO OPERATION.

3. REGARDING SECTION ON FOREIGN TRADE, IT SHOULD BE POINTED
OUT THAT TECHNICAL-PRODUCTION MINISTRIES PLAY KEY ROLE
ALONGSIDE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE IN PREPARING FOREIGN
TRADE PLAN. ALSO, WE FEEL THAT STATEMENT UNDER GENERAL POLICY
SECTION REGARDING ROMANIA'S EFFORTS TO REDISTRIBUTE FOREIGN
TRADE TO INDUSTRIALIZED WEST AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT
EXPENSE OF TRADE WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CHANGED
TO READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. PERCENTAGE OF ROMANIA'S TRADE
WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST, AND
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THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS, IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS,
BEEN BASICALLY STABILIZED. PRIOR TO 1976, THE PERCENTAGE OF
ROMANIAN TRADE WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AS A PERCENTAGE
OF TOTAL ROMANIAN TRADE, HAD DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY. END
QUOTE.

4. UNDER SECTION ON STRUCTURE, SUBSECTION "ECONOMIC AND

INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES" SHOULD BE TITLED INSTEAD "TECHNICAL-PRODUCTION MINISTRIES". UNDER THIS SUBHEADING, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING TEXT: QUOTE. WHEN LOOKING AT THE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE OF ROMANIA, IT IS BEST TO LOOK AT THE SYSTEM AS IF EACH TECHNICAL-PRODUCTION MINISTRY WERE A WESTERN-STYLE CONGLOMERATE. VIEWED IN THIS CONTEXT, THE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF A MINISTRY ARE EQUIVALENT TO SENIOR OPERATING OFFICERS OF THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL CENTRALS, RESEARCH AND DESIGN INSTITUTES AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE SUBORDINATED TO THIS MINISTRY. THE VARIOUS MINISTERS OF TECHNICAL-PRODUCTION MINISTRIES ARE, IN EFFECT, THE BOARD CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPANIES UNDER THEM. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBUNITS OF SUCH A MINISTRY ARE THE INDUSTRIAL CENTRALS. RESEARCH AND DESIGN INSTITUTES ARE SECOND IN IMPORTANCE, WHILE FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (FTO S), WHICH ARE IN FACT THE EQUIVALENT OF AN IMPORT-EXPORT DEPARTMENT OF A WESTERN FIRM, PLAY A RELATIVELY MINOR ROLE. END QUOTE. WE SUGGEST THAT AFTER THIS SUBSECTION, THE ONE ON INDUSTRIAL CENTRALS SHOULD COME NEXT, FOLLOWED BY THE ONE ON RESEARCH AND DESIGN INSTITUTES AND THEN FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS. SECTION ON FTOS SHOULD BE REVISED TO INCORPORATE IDEA THAT EACH FTO IS LIMITED TO DEAL IN SPECIFIC PRODUCTS, EQUIPMENT OR AREAS, EVEN THOUGH THESE SOMETIMES MAY CUT ACROSS MINISTERIAL LINES.

5. AT END OF OBR, IN SECTION ON HOTELS, YOU SHOULD DELETE
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REFERENCES TO AMBASSADOR AND NORD HOTELS. IN THEIR PLACE, YOU SHOULD MENTION HOTEL BULEVARD, BLVD. GHEORGEH GHEORGHIU-DEJ NO. 1, TELEPHONE NUMBER 13-13-08, TELEX 10886, AND THE HOTEL CONTINENTAL, CALEA VICTORIEI NO. 56, TELEPHONE 14-53-49, TELEX 10380 CONTIER.

6. UNDER SECTION "EMBASSY SERVICES", YOU SHOULD ADD EMBASSY
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